

**Canon Martin O'Driscoll P.P.**

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Parish office: Tel: 56398 email: [office@bantryparish.com](mailto:office@bantryparish.com)

Parish Office times: Weekdays: Monday & Wednesday 9am – 11am. Thursday & Fridays 9am – 12noon

Parish website: [www.bantryparish.ie](http://www.bantryparish.ie)

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December is**  
**Bambinelli Sunday**

We invite Families to bring the figure of the Christ Child they will use in their family cribs this year to be blessed at Masses next Sunday. You can then take them home and wrap them, place them under the Christmas Tree ready to be the first gift opened on Christmas morning

Derrycreeha National School will have their Christmas Mass on Wednesday 13th December 2017 at 10.00am. All are welcome

**Rosary in Kealkill Church:** The Rosary is starting before Mass in Kealkill Church each Sunday at 10.35am for the protection of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

**The Joy of Giving**

Somehow, not only for Christmas  
But all the year through,  
The joy that you give to others  
Is the joy that comes back to you;  
And the more you spend in blessing  
The poor and lonely and sad,  
The more of your heart's possessing  
Returns to make you glad.  
John G. Whittier

**Recent Parish Baptisms:**

**Graeme Michael Culloty**  
- Farranfada, Coomhola

We welcome him into our Christian Community

**Calendar: Mass Times and Intentions :-**

**Mon. 11<sup>th</sup> December: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent:**

Bantry: 10am: Michael Connolly - Cahernacrin

**Tues. 12<sup>th</sup> December: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent:**

Bantry: 10am: Patrick O'Mahony – England & Reenrour - 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary

**Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> December: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent:**

Bantry: 10am:

James & Mary Ellen Wiseman - Dromleigh Hospital: 5.30pm:

Maureen O'Sullivan – Rock Villas

**Thurs. 14<sup>th</sup> December: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent:**

Bantry: 10am: Peter & Bridie Cussen

**Fri. 15<sup>th</sup> December: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent:n Mary**

Bantry: 10am: Kathleen Cronin – Coomanore

Kealkil: 7.30pm: Willie Hourihan & the Hourihan Family – Carriganass, Kealkil

**Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> December: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent:**

Hospital: 10am:

Patrick & Christina McCarthy – Tower Hill

Bantry: 6.15pm: Kathleen McCarthy – Scartbawn

**Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> December: Third Sunday of Advent:**

Bantry: 9am : John P. McCarthy – Scartbawn

Coomhola: 10am: Tim Murphy - Droumduve

Kealkil: 11am:

Rita O'Sullivan – Hillview, Breenybeg

Bantry: 12 noon: People of the Parish

**Died Recently:** We extend our prayers & sympathy to the family, relatives & friends of:

**Ann (Annie) Cronin (née Cullinane)**  
- Reendesert, Ballylickey, Bantry

**May she Rest in Peace**

**St. Vincent de Paul Appeal**

St. Vincent de Paul Bantry will hold its annual Christmas Appeal collection at all churches this weekend 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> December. Your generosity +is much appreciated as it helps greatly in our endeavours to help those in need.

**Recent Parish Weddings:** We congratulate **Mary Edel Cronin** (Cahernacrin, Bantry) & **John O'Mahony** (Ballyporeen, Co. Tipperary) who were married in St. Finbarr's Church, Bantry on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

**We wish Mary & John long & happy lives together.**

**The World Meeting of the Families 2018** will attract thousands of Irish and International pilgrims. Organising it and seeing it through will only be possible with the help of generous volunteers who will put their love and talents to service. In 2012, for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, approximately 2,000 volunteers gave their time, abilities and service to organise this event in various roles, such as stewards, welcoming and information teams, photographers, bloggers, media support, logistics, programming support, among many roles. The volunteers were amazing and loved the experience of being part of the event from the inside. If you volunteered for IEC2012 please volunteer with us again and help us encourage others to do so too. If you have not volunteered before, we would like to have you too. We are seeking several thousand volunteers; we hope WMOF2018 will appeal to many to help! Our volunteers are vital to the success of the World Meeting of Families. We will be grateful for every single minute that you give us of your precious time and we truly value your contribution and do hope you will consider applying as a member of our Volunteer Team. Please see [worldmeeting2018.ie](http://worldmeeting2018.ie) for information.

**Offertory Collection:** Weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>  
December: Bantry - € 1,705;  
Coomhola - €260; Kealkil - €390.

**Bantry Mother and Toddler Group** meets every Monday in the Gaelscoil hall from 09:45 to 11:45. Indoor and outdoor activities, ballpool, arts & crafts, sand and water activities, music and singing. Refreshments provided. €4 per family.

### **HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE EX CORK**

*Walk in the footsteps of Jesus* This trip of a lifetime (fully guided) will take place from April 20<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2018. Highlights include: A boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, visits to Nazareth, Cana, Jericho, The Dead Sea, Jerusalem, The Mount of Olives, Bethlehem, etc. The trip includes: Return flights ex Cork, a comprehensive daily programme, entrance fees, 4\* Hotels, dinner bed and breakfast throughout. Spiritual Director Fr Liam Crowley. For Information please contact MAP Travel 01-8783111 or Fr Liam Crowley 087 2302811 /Tour Manager Jim Keogh 021 4885371 Mobile 087 2678793. Please note that places are strictly limited and will be allocated first come first served.

Diocese of Cork and Ross Lourdes Pilgrimage  
2018. Young Adult Helpers (18-25 year olds)  
11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Our pilgrimage is a time for reflection, prayer, for service and making new friends.

For more information contact Fr. Charlie Kiely.  
Tel. 021-4537603

**Bantry Community Carol Service** is being held once again in St Brendan's Church on the square on Sunday 17 December at 8pm. Many parishioners enjoy this service and mark it as the start of their Christmas spiritual festivities. Do come and you will be made most welcome

**Westlodge Bingo:** A Christmas Monster €1000 Bingo with Jules Hall will take place at the Westlodge Hotel on this Sunday afternoon, Dec. 10th at 3pm. Books are €10 each with super raffle prizes on offer. This event is in support of CoAction West Cork & is a "must" for all bingo fans.

### **THE DEEP END: Light and Darkness**

Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again today, and in this account, from the fourth gospel, we hear John's voice and his testimony about Jesus. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth gospel and its opening verses proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light-bearer, he is not the light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out.

We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'rejoice'; we light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. It might be a good opportunity to ask today: 'who have been the light-bearers on your own faith journey'? Who testified to the Light of God and passed the torch on to you? We thank God for them.

Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church ... We become cynical and settle for mediocrity. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light ... teachers, community leaders, grandparents, children, a friend ... they bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome.

Michel de Verteuil

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